

In the Beginning



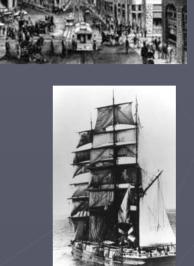


- City founded in 1851 @ Alki
- ▶ 1865 First City Charter (pop. 350)
- ➤ 1869 City incorporated by Legislature (pop. 1,500)
- ▶ Mayor and Council elected annually
- 1883 women allowed to vote (lasted 4 years)
- ▶ 1889 Seattle Burns (who didn't)

Into the 20th Century

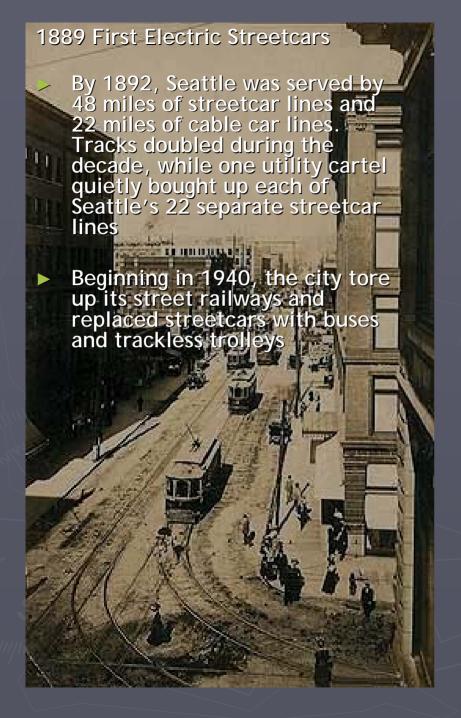
Railroads and Shipping connected Seattle to the rest of the Country

- Exploitation and development of Alaska gave rise to unprecedented commercial expansion
- Between 1890 and 1920 Seattle experienced tremendous growth. The population of the City grew from 80,671 to 315,685
- > Public health was a concern:
 - Minimum housing standards
 - Provision of light and air
 - Recreation space for workers

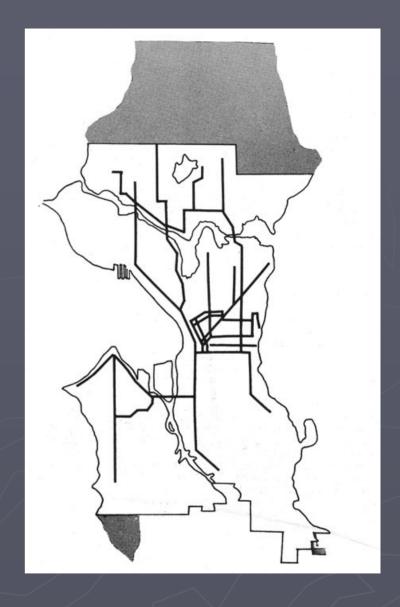








Street Cars



Street Car Lines

City Beautiful Movement

- Reflected thinking that European cities offered the best model for American cities
- Philosophy: Beautiful works that attract the wealthy makes pleasant the life of the poor and creates a unifying civic pride. (aka trickle down in modern speak)
- Architect and landscape architect held center stage

Alaska Pacific Exposition - 1909

- Stimulated by the gold rush and commercial and industrial expansion. Staged on the grounds of what is now the University of Washington campus
- Characterized by neoclassical design, vistas and promenades

Olmstead Brothers - 1903

- April 30, 1903, City leaders hired the prominent Olmstead Brothers, a Brookline Massachusetts Landscape Architecture firm, to design a park and boulevard system for the City
- Proposed an extensive system of parks linked by boulevards and parkways
- Included Seward Park, Volunteer Park, Woodland Park and Jefferson Park
- Many small parks. (Colman, Frink, Leschi, Madrona) and a boulevard system that avoided the grid
- Today the Olmstead inspired parks contribute immeasurably to the Urban Design of the City







- Virgil Bogue; Railroad Engineer, 1911. Hired by Municipal Plans Commission
- Mostly concerned transportation, harbor improvements and arterial highways
- Non-transportation recommendations included a proposed civic center in the grandest tradition of the City Beautiful, linked by esplanades and tree lined boulevards, a train station at South Lake Union, a tunnel to Kirkland, and Mercer Island as a city park
- Particularly prophetic in his recommendations about rapid transit
- Bogue offered no studies to justify the large public expense; nor how to carry it out
- The City Charter required that the plan be put before the voters and it failed decisively
- Notwithstanding the Plan's defeat, much of Seattle's arterial highway network, park system and part of its waterfront are based on Bogue's proposals

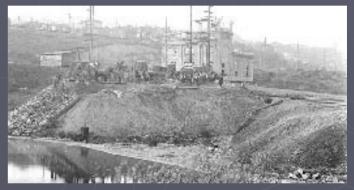
"The City's growth will be retarded with a tendency to develop congested, undesirable and unhealthful districts unless rapid transit facilities are provided. Businessmen, and workers generally, cannot be served by a surface street railway system, over lines stretching out six or seven miles, with stops at every street crossing, consuming from thirty minutes to an hour twice each day. And the more the population increases in these suburban sections over which the city must expand, the more difficult the problems become."



BEYOND THE GRAND PLAN

- Increasingly functional issues (efficient transportation, well planned streets, parks and playgrounds) became important
- Transportation routes followed the path of least resistance
- The "zone system" was willingly accepted in city even if it meant abridged property rights.
- Theodore Roosevelt said: "Human rights and property rights are fundamentally and in the long run identical, but when it clearly appears that there is a real conflict between them, human rights must have the upper hand, for property belongs to man and not man to property"
- Popular interest began to focus on protecting single family residential areas from factories, stores, refuse facilities
- First comprehensive zoning ordinance in New York 1916
- > First Zoning Ordinance in Seattle, 1923
- > Seattle became a city of the middle class in 1940 there were fewer wage earners in Seattle than in 1920
- City takes over street car lines to guarantee service levels, that private owners could not afford







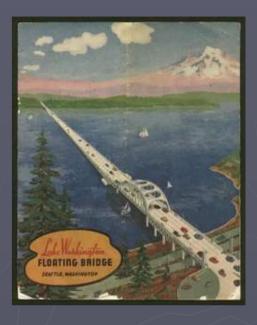
Ship Canal Opens 1917





1930's & 40's

- Population (by 1950) 467,591
- Hooverville
- 140,000 newcomers to the city
- Holly Park opens for war workers
- Last street cars "modernized"
- Lake Washington Floating Bridge





"Guns force children from city parks in January 1942."







1950's & 60's

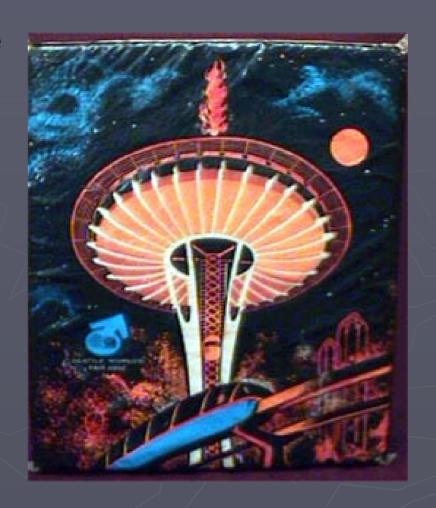
- ▶ Pop. 467,591- 557,087
- ► Alaskan Way Viaduct opened to public celebration in 1953
- ▶ Northgate Shopping Mall opens
- Evergreen Point Bridge, Interstate 5 and Sprawl
- Central city becomes less influential in shaping land use
- Annexation and move to suburbs
- ▶ New Comprehensive Plan 1956

1956 Comprehensive Plan

- ► Average household size declines to 2.7 (5.64 in 1900)
- ► little more than a map of general land use and transportation
- > Prevailing philosophy against mixed use
- ▶ Protection of single family housing
- ► Multifamily housing focused on arterials
- ► Impact of automobile

1962 Seattle World's Fair

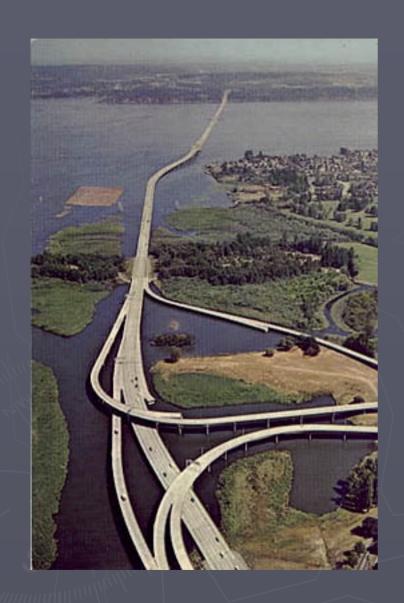
- Real turning point for the City
- 77 acre cultural center including Opera House,
 Science Center and Coliseum
- Put Seattle on cultural map
- ➤ Turned a profit
- Shaped Seattle's image nationally and internationally





METRO & Forward Thrust

- ► METRO formed (1958) and within decade lake Washington was clean and swimmable
- Seattle in the forefront of water quality management
- ▶ Voters reject METRO transit authority in 1962
- ▶ Voters also approved \$334 million Forward Thrust Bonds
- Largest per capita public improvement program nationally
- > \$118 million for parks more than ever expended on parks
- Included Freeway Park (1st park over freeway), Gas Works Park, and Waterfront Park
- Expands Sea-Tac, the Aquarium and Zoo, & funds the King Dome
- Established the Seattle Design Commission
- Bonds for mass transit not approved by voters
- Forward Thrust investments helped City through the recession of 1968-73
- Voters approve METRO Transit in 1972



FREEWAYS

- ▶ Interstate 5 opens in 1967
- Based on old toll route;
 neighborhoods severed leading to some opposition on First Hill, but to no avail
- ➤ 1969 thousands protested freeway thru Arboretum (R.H. Thomson Expressway)
- ► 1970 Council approves Bay Freeway
- ▶ 1972 votes scrap new freeways

The Party's Over - 1970's

- ▶ Pop. 530,000 (less than half of King County)
- ➤ By 1980 population drops to 490,000.
- Migration to suburbs worsened by Boeing layoffs

▶ In 1970-71 Boeing lays off nearly two thirds of

its workforce

➤ Seattle unemployment will peak at 13.8% (national avg. 4.5%)

Recession slows urban renewal plans (a good thing)

Most Livable City 1970 - 1990



New interests emerge in protecting the environment, preserving city's history, supporting the arts, and citizen participation in shaping the future

Most Livable City

Historic Preservation

- ▶ 1963 Monson Plan for CBD spurs historic preservation efforts
- Monson Plan calls for new office buildings, ring roads, and parking garages
- May 1970 Pioneer Square established as Seattle's first Historic District
- 1971 voters approve saving Market; seven acre Pike Place Market Historic District established
- > 1973 ID Special Review District established







Most Livable City

Environment

- ► In the early 1970's saw passage of major environmental legislation
- ▶ State Environmental Policy Act 1970
- ➤ Shoreline Management Act 1971
- No more filling of shorelines or building overwater
- Bay and RH Thomsen freeways nixed by voters
- Forward Thrust transportation proposals resubmitted and failed again
- Support for open space through approval of Bond Issues



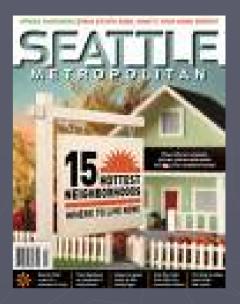




Most Livable City

Neighborhood Planning

- Neighborhood generally defined by school locations or business districts
- In the late 1960's Seattle participated in the Model Cities Program
- Emphasis on citizen participation and central area neighborhoods
- Program resulted in neighborhood parks, clinics, and sewer and drainage improvements
- Forward Thrust mandated Neighborhood Improvement Program
- Office of Neighborhood Planning established
- Focused on capital improvement projects
- Mini neighborhood comprehensive plans w/recommendations on land use, housing, urban design, transportation
- Formed a basis for future land use and transportation plan to come
- Neighborhood plans became part of SEPA environmental review
- ▶ Neighborhood Matching Fund introduced





Goals for Seattle 2000

- ▶ In 1973, Seattle 2000 Commission process served as a model for citizen involvement
- Process resulted in an extensive list of goals and aspirations for the future
- Goals were adopted by Mayor and Council as basis for new Comprehensive Policy Plan
- ▶ Goals call for developing clear policy guidance in rezoning city, absent in existing Comprehensive Plan
- New Growth Policies adopted in 1977 broad policies to accommodate growth
- Setting stage for Land Use Policies and new zoning to replace outdated Comprehensive Plan



Land Use Policies and Title 23

- > Policy catalog, no new Comprehensive Plan
- ▶ 1957 Comprehensive Plan contained no written policies governing zoning decisions; inconsistent with Seattle 2000 policies; did not reflect current values; led to disorganized growth
- Last major revision to Comprehensive Plan was in 1965
- ➤ Single Family land use policies adopted in 1978
- Followed by multifamily, downtown, commercial, shorelines, and industrial
- Residential Land Use Code, Municipal Code Title 23, adopted in 1982
- Industrial zones adopted in 1987; old zoning code retired in 1995
- Focused on positive patterns of development (e.g. strengthen pedestrian environment, promote transit, encourage infill, protect single family neighborhoods)









Residential Areas





- Multifamily accounts for approximately 9%
- More contextual; infill important; townhouses are encouraged
- ► MF types range from 2-4 store walk-ups to Midrise and Highrise buildings













Neighborhood Commercial

- Emphasis on mixed use, pedestrian & transit supportive environment
- De-emphasize auto-oriented areas
- Respond to neighborhood context and recognize neighborhood centers











- Encouraged high density with emphasis on residential
- More focus on downtown neighborhoods
- Focus on public realm and street environment
- Incentive program, emphasis on affordable housing
- Urban form strategy graduated height & transition
- New emphasis on preservation



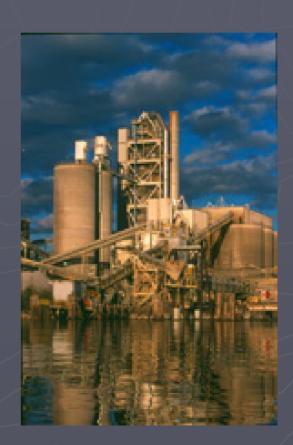




Industrial

- > Preservation of industrial areas
- Recognize emerging technology
- > Allow compatible mixed use
- ▶ Prohibit housing





Historical Summary

000	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980
Pioneer S	Settlement		Growth o	f the Que	en City		Develop	ment of the	e Modern	City		Most Liv	able City
1851 Denny party lands at Alka 1853 Firet plan of Seattle 1854 Chief Seattle speech 1856 Battle of Seattle	1861 Seattle selected as site for university 1869 Seattle incorporated	1879 Last virgin tree cut down on central waterfront	1884 First hone-drawn streetcar 1884 First park given to city by David Denny 1886 Anti-Chinese riets 1889 Seattle Fire 1889 Wathington Statehood	1893 Great Northem's transcontinental railroad terminus in Seattle 1895 University opens at present site 1895 Tideland filling begins 1897 Klondike Gold rush begins	1902 Interuchan railways to Tacoma and Everett open 1903 Oinsted Brother Park Plan 1904 First automobile in Seattle 1907 Pite Place Market established 1908 First Demy Regarde 1909 Ataka - Vickon-Pacific Reposition	1911 Bogue Plan 1911 Establishment of the Port of Seattle 1914 Smith Tower completed; fourth tallest building in the world 1916 Boeing builds first bi-plane on Lake Union 1917 Completion of Lake Wasthington Ship Canal 1919 Seattle General Strike	1923 Seaule's first zoning ordinance 1925 Second Denny Regrade	1931 Hooverville ettablished 1932 Aurora Bridge completed	1940 Lacey V Murrow Floating Bridge 1949 Sea-Tac main passenger terminal dedicated	1950 Northgate Shopping Center opens 1953 Alaskan Way viaduct completed 1958 METRO established	1962 Century 21 / Seattle World's Fair 1964 Evergreen Point Floating Bridge 1967 Interstate's opens through downtown Seattle 1968 Forward Thrust bond approved	1970 Boeing cuts work force 1970 Pioneer Square Historic Dirict established 1971 Scattle chizans vote to preserve Pike Place Market 1971 Shoreline Management Act adopted 1971 Scattle Arts Commission established	1976 Kingdome opens
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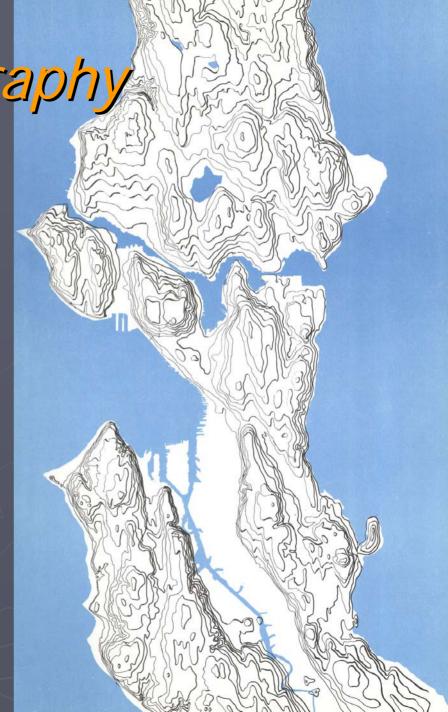
Development Patterns:

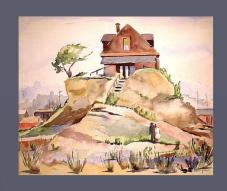
Topography Transportation **Platting** Annexation Parks & Open Space Zoning



Topography

- Land & Water are primary determinants in shaping the form of the city
- Unique setting establish city's image as a place in a dramatic setting
- Land and water provide edges and physical limits to growth
- Topography is characterized by north-south hill forms and panoramic views



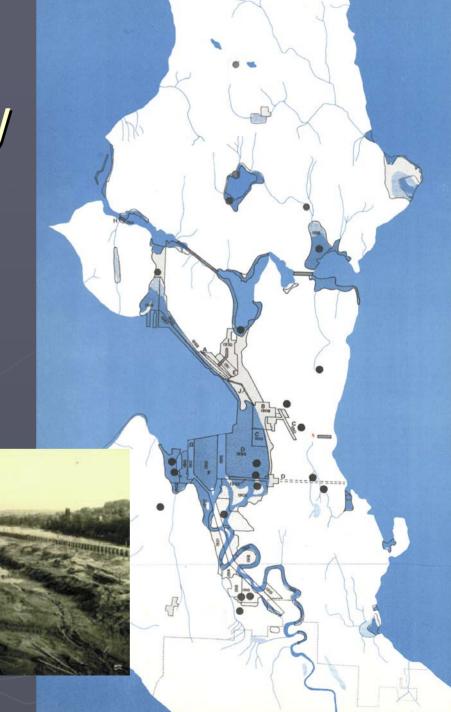


Reshaping Topography

Topography was believed an obstacle to growth

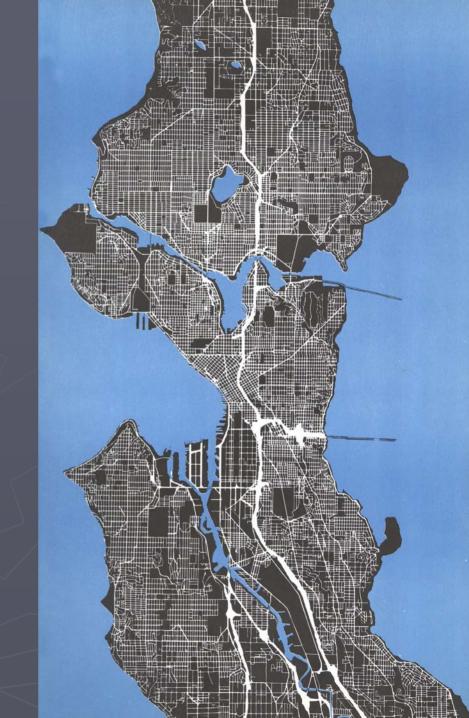
Grading and filling occurred on a wide scale – Denny Hill, Duwamish tide flats, Jackson St., channeling the Duwamish River, Harbor Island





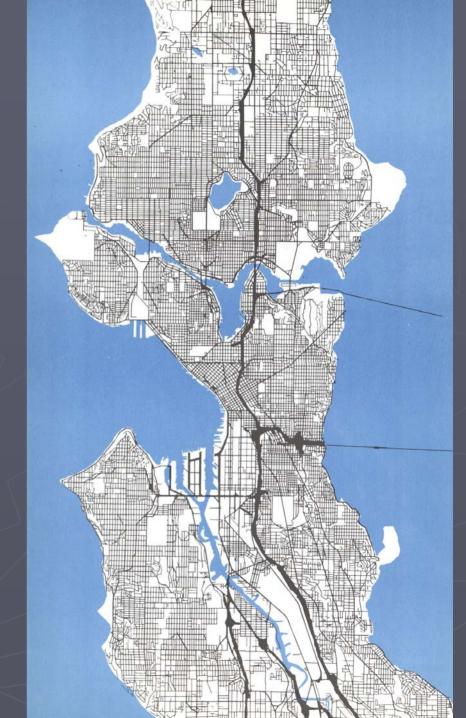
Platting

- Initially platting reflected competing townsites, one using a compass, the other the shoreline
- Result was historical accident that gives city a sense of place not possible with strict adherence to grid
- Early platting paralleled the waterfront
- Platting was influenced greatly by environmental suitability for building, accessibility and micro climate considerations



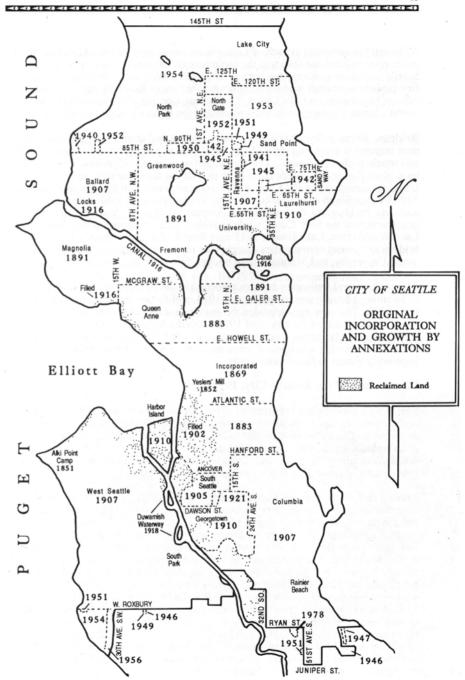
Transportation

- Original connections to the region and the nation were dependent on water access
- Street Cars exposed new territory to speculative commercial & residential development
- Accelerated the decentralization of the city
- Similar to RR and Streetcar routes, major streets frequently traversed valleys or were built on ridges, or paralleled shorelines
- As mobility increased, so did the boundaries of the city
- Just as the system of street cars, then arterials, provided access to other neighborhoods and commercial centers, so did freeways easily access the suburbs



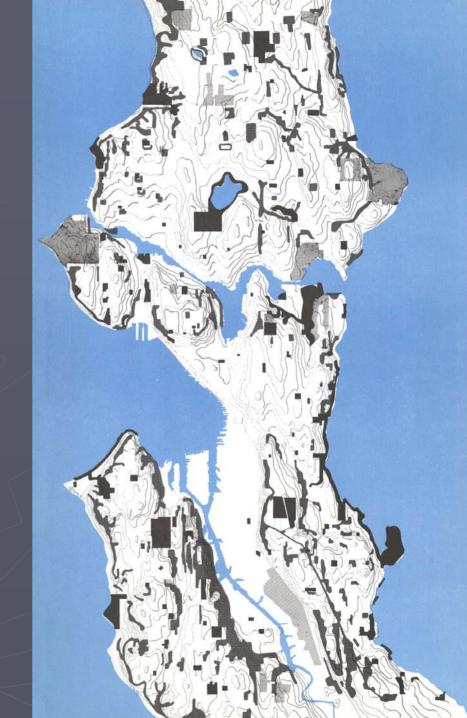
Annexation

- During the first part of 20th century, city expanded through extensive annexation
- By 1891 city extended from Beacon Hill to U-district (known as Brooklyn)
- In early 1900's independent cities including Ballard, Columbia, South Park, Rainier Beach, West Seattle, Georgetown, and Laurelhurst were annexed
- Postwar annexation added much of city north of N. 85th street



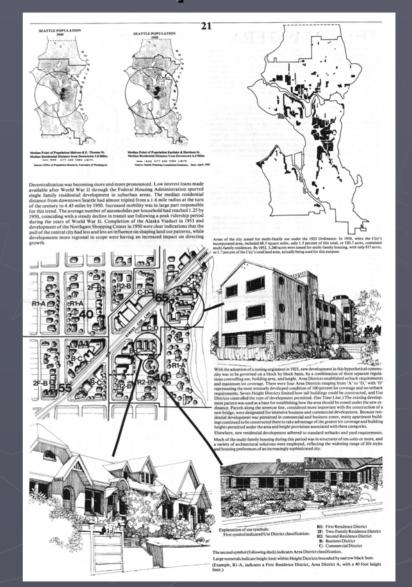
Public Lands and Open Space

- Open Space includes parks, greenbelts, and water areas
- Benefits by early parks planning (Olmstead) and by linear open spaces that were traditionally difficult to build upon
- Significant expanse of open water in and around city
- Open space helped to define neighborhoods and separate incompatible uses

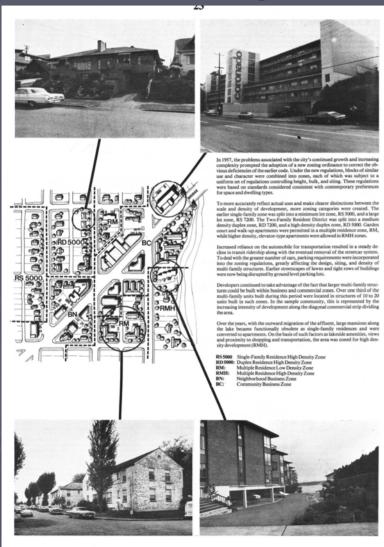


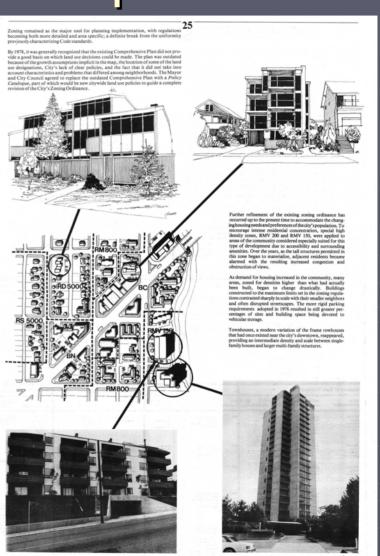
Zoning and Development





Zoning and Development

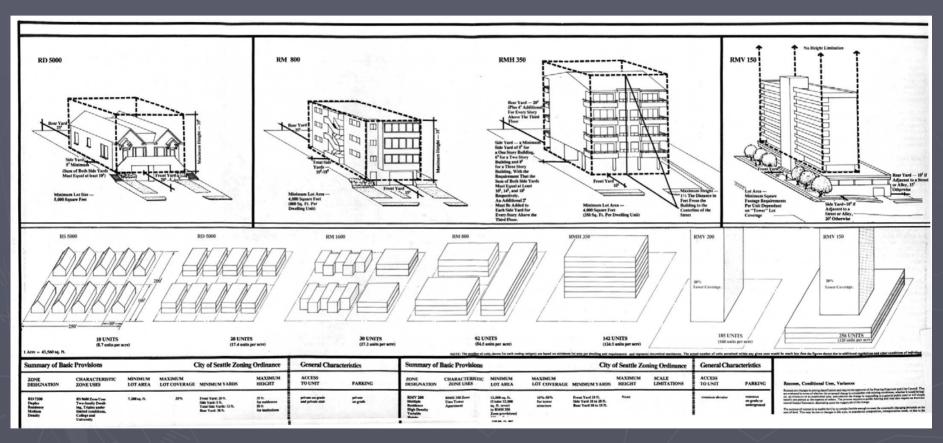




1957 - 1965

1965 - 1982

Zoning and Development

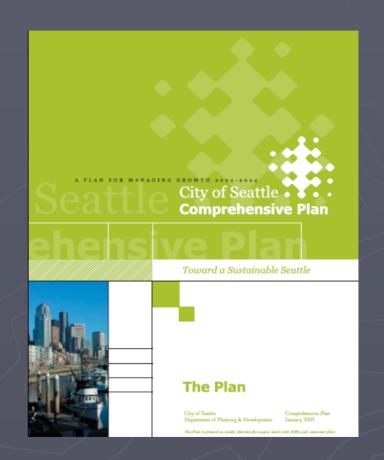


Title 24 Gives way to Title 23 Land Use Code

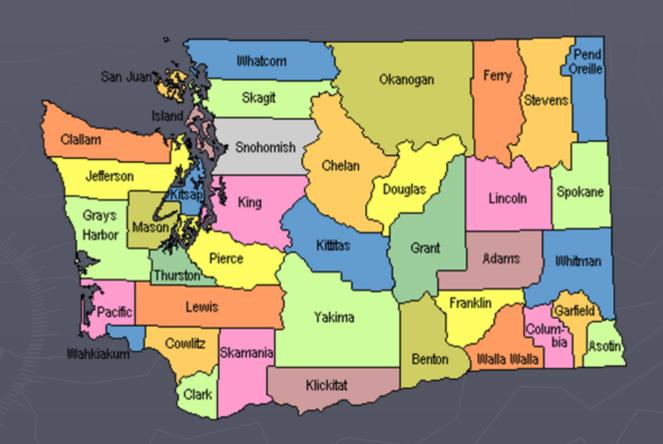
Growth Management and New Comprehensive Plan 1994-2006

What is the Comprehensive Plan

- A 20-year Growth Management Plan.
- A set of policies guiding city decision makers
- A legal requirement of the State of Washington Growth Management Act



Washington State Growth Management Act



GMA Goals

- Direct growth to areas where facilities exist
- ► Reduce sprawl
- ► Multimodal transportation system
- ► Housing affordable to all economic levels
- > Economic development

GMA Requirements - County

► Establish urban growth boundary

► Accommodate 20-year population estimate

▶ Buildable Lands reporting

Regional And County Plans

- □ Vision 2020 for 4 county region called for growth in centers, connected by transit
- □ King County Countywide Planning Policies:
- Set urban growth boundary
- Assign household and job growth target to each jurisdiction
- Establish criteria for urban centers and names 16 centers

GMA Requirements - Local

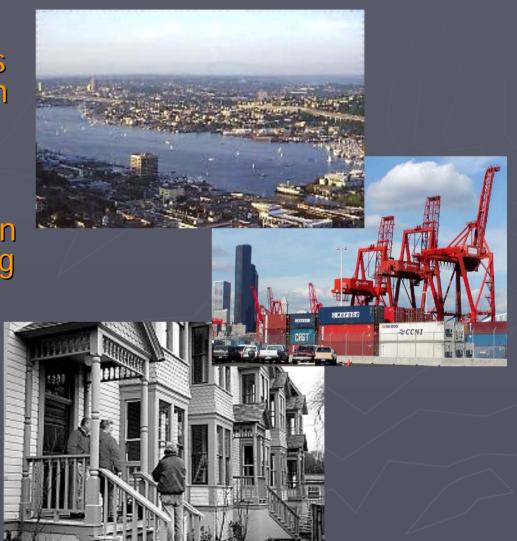
- > Prepare a comprehensive plan
- Consistent with multi-county and county plans
- ► Include specific elements (topics)
- > Transportation concurrency
- ► All City actions must conform to Plan
- ► Regular updates next in 2011

What is in the Comprehensive Plan?

State required elements contained in the Growth Management Act.

 County required elements as contained in the Countywide Planning Policies.

Elements added by the City of Seattle to implement its vision for the city.



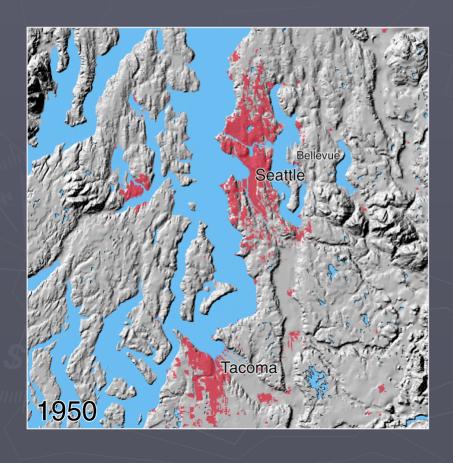
Elements of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan

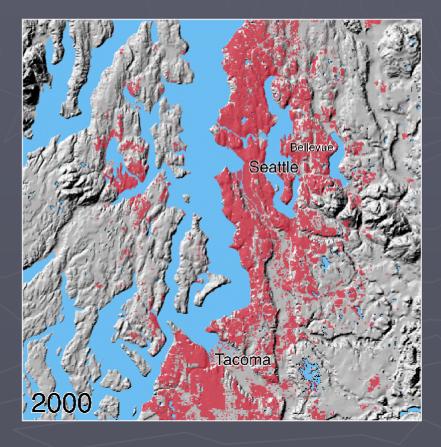
- ▶ Land Use
- ➤ Transportation
- ➤ Housing
- ▶ Capital Facilities
- **▶** Utilities
- EconomicDevelopment

- NeighborhoodPlanning
- ➤ Human Development
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Urban Village

Urban Village Strategy

➤ Accommodate the City's share of anticipated regional growth













Make efficient use of past and future City infrastructure investments





Promote higher levels of pedestrian





and transit travel

Neighborhood Planning

- ▶ After Comp Plan adopted
- Areas containing urban village, or "distressed" areas
- Need to accommodate urban village growth target
- Goals and policies for every neighborhood in Comp Plan



Growth since adopting Comprehensive Plan

